

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PRETOR 03609 271629Z

ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 EB-08 NRC-07 SOE-02 DODE-00

DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00

INRE-00 PA-02 (ISO) W

-----109670 301439Z /50

O 271545Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1511

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

UNCLAS PRETORIA 3609

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MNUC, PARM, SF

SUBJECT: SA-US NUCLEAR TALKS: PRESS LEAKAGE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF FRONT PAGE STORY DATELINED LONDON
WHICH APPEARED IN JOHANNESBURG STAR, JUNE 27 UNDER HEADLINE

"SA ATOMIC MOVE, PACKAGE DEAL MAY BE MADE WITH U.S.":

QUOTE: SOUTH AFRICA HAS ASKED THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR FIRM
GUARANTEES FOR A CONTROVERSIAL PACKAGE OF NUCLEAR FUEL SERVICES
IN EXCHANGE FOR SIGNING THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY.

DAVID FISHLOCK, SCIENCE EDITOR OF THE LONDON FINANCIAL TIMES,
REPORTS TODAY THAT A SENIOR US STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL WILL GO
TO PRETORIA SHORTLY WITH THE US ADMINISTRATION'S LATEST PROPOSALS.
THE PACKAGE STIPULATED BY SOUTH AFRICA INCLUDES THE ENRICHMENT OF
URANIUM FOR ITS FIRST TWO NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS- UNDER

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PRETOR 03609 271629Z

CONSTRUCTION NEAR CAPE TOWN- FURTHER SUPPLIES OF URANIUM FUEL FOR ITS
SAFARI RESEARCH REACTOR AND AN ASSURANCE OF WHAT IT CALLS "NON-
SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY" FOR ITS NEW URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT AT
PALINDABA.

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR. PIK BOTHA, WAS NOT AVAILABLE
FOR COMMENT TODAY. NOR WERE THE SECRETARY, MR. BRAND FOURIE AND
DR. A.J. ROUX, PRESIDENT OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY BOARD.

BIG RISK. IN RETURN THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS INDICATED ITS WILLINGNESS EITHER TO SIGN THE TREATY OR TO ACCEPT " FULL-SCOPE" SAFEGUARDS-WHICH FROM THE STANDPOINT OF U.S. NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY MAY BE JUST AS ACCEPTABLE.

FOR THE U.S. THE BIG RISK OF FAILURE TO FIND AN ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE IS THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE FORCED INTO AN ACCELERATED PROGRAMME OF DEVELOPING ITS OWN URANIUM ENRICHMENT CAPACITY.

THE REWARD OF SUCCESS, HOWEVER, COULD BE THAT OTHER NUCLEAR NATIONS SUCH AS INDIA, PAKISTAN, BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA ARE PERSUADED TO SIGN THE TREATY.

BLAST LEVEL. THE PACKAGE IS DIPLOMATICALLY MOST SENSITIVE IN THE AREA OF FUEL FOR THE SMALL (20 MW OF HEAT) SAFARI RESEARCH REACTOR FOR WHICH THE LAST U.S. DELIVERED WERE AUTHORIZED AT THE END OF 1976. THIS IS NORMALLY OF 93 PERCENT ENRICHMENT- THAT IS, OF A

LEVEL ASSOCIATED WITH NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES.

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY HAS BEEN INVESTIGATING WAYS IN WHICH THE RELATIVELY FEW REACTORS WHICH REQUIRE THESE VERY HIGH LEVELS OF ENRICHMENT MIGHT BE ADAPTED TO USE LOWER LEVELS, AND THUS BE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO AMERICA'S POLICY.

THE AIM IS THAT SUCH REACTORS SHOULD USE FUEL NO MORE HIGHLY ENRICHED THAN 20 PERCENT, AT WHICH LEVEL IT IS JUDGED ANY WEAPON FASHIONED FROM THE FUEL WOULD BE SO CUMBERSOME AS TO BE DISCOUNTABLE.

IN THE CASE OF SAFARI, HOWEVER, THE U.S. SCIENTISTS CAN DO NO
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PRETOR 03609 271629Z

BETTER THAN TO PROPOSE A FUEL OF 35-40 PERCENT ENRICHMENT. ONLY MEANS. THIS DISADVANTAGE MAY BE USED BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO ADVANCE THEIR CASE FOR TWO OTHER PARTS OF THE PACKAGE, NAMELY GUARANTEED SUPPLIES FOR ENRICHMENT FOR THE KOEBERG POWER REACTORS, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S OWN URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT.

THE COMMERCIAL ENRICHMENT PLANT, CONFIRMED IN JANUARY, WILL BE SOUTH AFRICA'S ONLY POSSIBLE MEANS OF FUELLING KOEBERG UNLESS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FULFILLS THE ORDER IT HAS ALREADY ACCEPTED FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN ELECTRICITY SUPPLY BOARD. UNQUOTE.

2. IF ASKED ABOUT SUBSTANCE OF STORY, WE WILL STATE THAT WE DO NOT INTEND TO COMMENT ON A SPECULATIVE REPORT. SA OFFICIALS WILL ADOPT SIMILAR LINES.
EDMONDSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR ENERGY, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRETOR03609
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780270-1018
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780616/aaaaanlr.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f915667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2193476
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SA-US NUCLEAR TALKS: PRESS LEAKAGE
TAGS: MNUC, PARM, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f915667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014